

February 8, 2010

Dear Educational Interpreters,

School districts with programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children have expressed concern that skill levels of interpreters are not improving. Part of the reason for this is a lack of training opportunities specific to their educational needs in rural areas of Missouri.

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) is offering an intensive skill development training program focused on receptive and expressive sign language abilities. The goal of this program is to enhance interpreter skill levels to an Intermediate level of proficiency.

The “Rural Educational Interpreters Skill Enhancement Training” will be an intensive three-week training held at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri during the summer break from June 13, 2010 – July 2, 2010. The training will utilize qualified instructors of educational interpreting, instructional materials, video-labs, targeted curriculum, and exposure to deaf language role models.

For the second year, this training is being made possible by funding from DESE. There will be no charge to the participants. **In order for the training to be possible, a minimum registration of 24 people is required.** MCDHH will be accepting applications for this program through May 15, 2010. Please get your applications in as early as possible in order to allow time for the selection process.

Selections will be made by a review of the completed application, and awarded based on the following criteria:

- Specific need due to Provisional Certificate in Education (PCED) expiration
- Current employment as an Education Interpreter for a Rural Missouri Public School System
- Current holders of a Novice or Apprentice Certification without a PCED

Lodging will be provided Sunday through Thursday. Parking will be available Sunday night through Friday afternoon. Meals will be provided Monday through Thursday, and breakfast on Friday. Lodging will not be provided on Friday or Saturday nights. Meals will not be provided from Friday afternoon through Sunday night.

A letter grade for each participant will not be given; however, the William Woods University Instructors will each complete a student profile at the end of the training program. The training attendees will also complete an evaluation of the training upon completion. It is hoped that all participants will register for MICS testing soon after completing this training.

We are looking forward to working with you! Please send completed applications to Angela.Graves@mcdhh.mo.gov or fax them to 573-526-5209.

Angela Graves
MICS Coordinator